

Jesuits and the Indigenous Peoples of Canada and the United States (continued)

work of "inculturation" of the Faith, called for by Vatican II, realizing that in the final analysis the Native peoples themselves will inculturate their Faith. In addition to the formation of adult leaders, the Centre gives special attention to leadership training for young people. Each month from September to April the Native youth gather for a special week-end. Camp Beedahbun provides a more intense experience during the summer months. Experience, reflection, decision, and action are used as essential steps in this formation. This program, as well as others here and elsewhere, stress coordination and cooperation or the team approach.

Father John Paul is an educator and runs a drama program at the Red Cloud Indian School on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. It is one of the school's most successful programs and includes staging some of the traditional Lakota (Sioux) stories. Father believes that much of this success derives from the fact that in it the students are drawing on an element that is strong and deep in their culture – the role of the traditional storyteller. These storytellers kept the traditions alive from one generation to another, passing on the values and beliefs of the people – everything that gave them their identity. This program represents inculturation in a slightly different context. It also gives much to the students who participate in it. Many past participants are now university graduates and tribal leaders. Such new approaches and experiences are indicative of a new reality that is emerging.

Father George Leach writes from Canada, "The drum is sounding a new age for the Aboriginal Peoples of Canada. In this emerging situation, the Jesuits have a new role. Their call is to "walk with", to be collaborators in the creation of this new Native reality and in the forging of a fully Native Catholic Church". His words are echoed by others.

New type of missionary

Father John Hatcher writes from South Dakota, "This is an important transition time for the Church on the Reservations. A new type of missionary is needed: one who is willing to help people do for themselves rather than one who will continue to do things for them. It takes extraordinary personal asceticism to encourage and form Native people for leadership on all levels while conscientiously surrendering one's own leadership role".

Father John Paul writes, "A real tribute to the strength and beauty of the Lakota people lies in the fact that they have "survived" the last 500 years and are now saying, "It is time to live again". The pastoral challenge we Jesuits now encounter is that of working with them to build a Church that is both Catholic and Lakota".

All this new vision, life, challenge, and hope was recognized and encouraged by Pope John Paul II during a visit to the United States in his address to the Tekakwitha Conference: "Your encounter with the Gospel has not only enriched you; it has enriched the Church. We are well aware that it has not taken place without its difficulties and, occasionally, its blunders. However, and you are experiencing this today, the Gospel does not destroy what is best in you. On the contrary it enriches, as it were, from within, the spiritual qualities and gifts that are distinctive of your cultures... And the revival of Indian culture will be a revival of those true values which they have inherited and safeguarded, and which are purified and ennobled by the revelation of Jesus Christ".

Annuary of the Society of Jesus - 1993

KATERI CENTER NEWS

FAVORS registred at the Kateri Center from April 30 to July 29, 1993.

Articles Found	4
Better Health	10
Business Problem Solved	1
Cures	7
Employment Found or Kept	16
Financial Aid	2
Peace in Families	1
Properties Bought or Sold	7
Safe Pregnancy	1
Safe Trips	4
Successful Studies	2
Successful or Averted Operations	7
Temporal Favors	7

Twenty-five Prayer Pledges or More

Bert Marlatt, Hilton, NY 33. A Sister of Mary Reparatrice, Montreal, QC, 25.

Icon for KATERI

Parishioners from St. Mary's Parish in Greenfield Park presented the Kahnawake community with an icon of Kateri Tekakwitha at Kateri's Shrine April 18.



Tekakwitha was beatified in 1980; her feast day is April 17. The icon was by Constantin Florea, a Romanian immigrant and iconographer.

"I present this icon of Kateri to her people to be in solidarity with

them," Florea said in presenting the icon. "Like Kateri, I am a refugee because of our faith in God. We were both persecuted for our belief in Jesus Christ. This icon of Kateri has it that she is not smiling because in my faith we believe in the suffering Christ, and she is with Christ, she suffers with us."

Rosalyn Snyder, a pastoral animator at St. Mary's, also presented the community with liturgical vestments.

"We, from St. Mary's, wanted to do something that would be a permanent symbol of our presence, our compassion and our understanding in your ongoing struggles and accomplishments," she said in presenting a stole and white chasuble to the community.

"We decided to design liturgical vestments that would incorporate native traditional symbolism with Christian traditional symbolism."

Bishop Bernard Hubert and Fr. John Walsh, EV, joined more than 250 people for the celebration.

Bryan Boyer

Monologue on Bl. Kateri Tekakwitha now available

Mary-Eunice of Mary Productions is offering a character sketch monologue on the life of the Indian maiden whose Feast Day is July 14th (in the U.S.). The monologue tells about her life as Kateri serves as a shining determination to live the Catholic faith in spite of the pressures of her people and society. It is hoped that young people will be more aware of this native American "saint".

For a copy of the script write:
Mary Productions, Tomaso Pl.
#212 Oakdale Dr.
Middletown, N. J. 07748.

(Self addressed envelope will be appreciated).